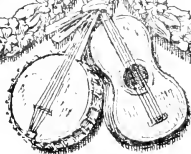


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# THE OLD PARSON

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**Never Say Die.** 3 male, 3 female char. . . . . 15  
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# THE OLD PARSON

A "First Part Finish" for a Negro  
Minstrel Entertainment

EDITED BY  
GEORGE H. COES

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BOSTON

*Walter H. Baker & Co.*

1893

1

MR. W. Who's there?

PARSON. Your beloved parson, Reverend Doctor Julius X. Wide-mouth, leader of de lambs in de flocks of Zion.

OMNES. It's de Parson! It's de Parson!

(Enter PARSON, R. I E, with umbrella.)

PARSON. Am dis de domicile whar de family ob de Barnrakes lives? Umph?

MRS. B. It am, your reverence.

PARSON. Yes? Den you has a darter dat's to be raffled for dis evening?

MRS. B. I have, your reverence. You see dat young man dar, Jackson Doolittle? He throwed three sixes, and de consequences is, he takes de chicken.

PARSON. Yes? Don't you find it rather chilly up around de (local)? Umph?

MRS. B. (*produces flask*). Well, 'tis kind er salubrious, dat's a fact. (*Gives to PARSON, who drinks.*)

PARSON. What is dat, old woman?

MRS. B. You know very well what it is. (*Drinks.*)

PARSON (*feels for book*). I lost my — (*to all*) have you seen anything of a Testament? (*Pulls out pack of cards; bus.*)

OMNES. Oh! oh!

PARSON. Dat's de New Testament; I want de old one. (*Pulls out book.*) Oh, here it is! Well, children, I am very sorry to be called upon to officiate on dis lemoncholy occasion; but such is life. Man is mortal, and must die. All flesh is grass, and grass is hay. We're here to-morrow and gone to-day. Eight men; where's de corpse?

MR. W. (*interrupting*). Parson, this is not a funeral; this is a wedding.

TOPSEY (*jumping up and down*). Parson. Parson. bring on your beer. How many parsons have we here? One, two, three, four — (MR. B. *knocks TOPSEY down; she gets up quick and goes to ARIMINTA for protection.*)

MR. B. Hush your business! Whar do you think you is — in de circus?

PARSON. Well, children, dis am a great world to live in. To spend or lend or give in. But to beg or borrow, or git a man's own, it's de very worst world dat ever was known. You are about to plunge yourselves in de miseries of matricide.

MRS. B. No, no; matrimony.

PARSON. Yes. I got de wrong page. You are about to join in de holy bands of padlock.

MRS. B. No, no; wedlock.

PARSON. Yes. You are about to shuffle off dis coil of single cussedness.

MRS. B. No, no; blessedness.

PARSON. Yes. Dis has been de custom since de good old days of Adam. Adam was a man of singular dis-temper. He didn't go runnin' around like de young men of de present day. No! What did he do? (*He makes an effort to strike TOPSEY.*) Go away, else I'll lay you out, sissy.

MRS. B. No, you won't! I'll do all de layin' out dat's to be done here.

PARSON. What did he do?

MRS. B. Yes, dat's it; tell us what he done.

PARSON. He went across to his uncle's house and borrowed his old white mule. Went down to Eve's house, and settled de business thar and then. Which one is de Barnrakes?

(DOOLITTLE and ARIMINTA come to C.)

PARSON (*goes behind them*). Ariminta Barnrakes, grasp the right hand of Mr. Hoehandle!

MRS. B. No; Doolittle.

PARSON. Yes; Doolittles. Do you swear to speak de truth, de whole truth, and nothing but de truth?

MRS. B. No, no; you are marryin' 'em; you ain't in de court-house.

PARSON. Didn't dey do dere courtin' here? Oh, no; I got in de wrong district. Jackson Doolittle, do you take this young girl to be you un-lawful wedded wife, to love, honor, and dis-obey her as long as you live, so help you Weehawken?

ARIMINTA. I do, I do, I do!

PARSON. Den, Miss Ariminta Barnrakes, do you take dis young scalawag to be your un-lawful wedded husband, to love, honor, and dis-obey him as long as you live, so help you Syracuse?

JACKSON. I do, I do, I do!

PARSON. Den it is de will of your beloved parson dat you be taken from whence you came, and dar to remain until the thirty-first day of Septober, then to be taken out and hung by the neck —

(ARIMINTA swoons in JACKSON'S arms; PARSON goes to R.)

MR. W. Parson, you're wrong; they are married.

PARSON. Yes. Some one has been foolin' wid de Testament. (*Goes between them.*) Den, children, I pronounce you hermetically sealed, in every lawful way, man and wife, accordin' to Hoyle. May you both live long and prosper. May you both have grandchildren.

BOTH. Oh, oh!

PARSON. De bill of cost on dis occasion is just fifteen cents.

(TOPSEY hits PARSON with the meal-bag; PARSON strips quick to a prize-fighter, and strikes an attitude; TOPSEY runs behind MRS. B.)

PARSON. Oh, I am a man of peace, and de leader of de church of Zion, but you bet your sweet life I can lick the man that struck

me with that meal-bag. It goes! Any man fools wid me is losing time.

MR. W. Parson, it's all a mistake — don't get excited. Come, it's within a half-second of twelve o'clock. (*Clock strikes twelve outside.*)

OMNES. We wish the bridal couple a happy New Year. (*Music; chord.*)

PARSON (*sings*). "Hear dem Bells," etc.

CURTAIN.

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**OUT OF HIS SPHERE.** A Comedy in Three Acts. By DAVID HILL. Five male, three female characters. Scenery, two simple interiors. The leading character is an old farmer, whose wish for the comforts of city life and the luxuries of wealth is answered in an unexpected and embarrassing manner. The piece abounds in rustic humor, the contrast between the simple old countryman and his city surroundings being ludicrously emphasized. All the characters are good and the piece easy to produce. Plays one hour and a half. (1889.)

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**A KETTLE OF FISH.** A Farce in Three Acts. Six male, four female characters. Costumes, modern; scenery all interiors. This amusing piece is adapted from the same source from which Mr. Daly derived his popular "7-20-8," and is a sure humorous hit. Time in playing, two hours and a quarter. (1890.)

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